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The Answer

The Reasons for Getting an
Agricultural Education Now

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THE ANSWER

The Reasons for Getting an Agricultural Education NOW

WRITING to the dean of agriculture, a father who had planned that his son should enter Iowa State College this fall, presents this problem that perplexes him:

"We've talked for a long time about my son's going to Ames to study agriculture. He's ready to enter now, but we don't know just what to do about it. We've been urged by everybody, from the president down, to make the farms produce more. Yet we can't do this without first class help and plenty of it. If I let my son go to college, I'll lose a good worker. I'll have to hire a man in his place and it won't be easy to find him. Then, if the boy stays at home, he'll be worth \$50 or \$60 a month and his board. If he goes, I'll have to pay that much for a good man, and besides that another \$40 or \$50 a month for college expenses. I'm not sure I should do that in these times. Then, on top of it all, my boy may be called to the army in two years or less and what good will his college training be to him then?"

That problem exists in many Iowa homes both on the farm and in town. Each case needs its own solution, of course, but certain general facts need to be considered by all parents and young men as they debate this question of going to college for an agricultural education this year, or not.

FIRST, it is to be remembered that the nation has a future as well as a present, with future needs that must be heeded as well as the pressing demands of the present.

The nation cannot recover speedily from this war if it does not have the leadership of men prepared for such leadership. Its agriculture cannot meet the demand of a hungry world unless science and education are applied more largely to it than ever.

England and Canada testify how short sighted it is to rob the colleges and universities. They face a serious shortage of men educated to lead in the years just ahead. "Where young men are qualified and the army has not called them, send them to college," declared the English war specialists who came to the United States recently to advise President Wilson. The English government has just set aside \$25,000,000 to set its colleges in full motion again, and particularly its technical institutions in agriculture and like fields.

"In Canada it is everywhere admitted that a mistake was made in letting the agricultural colleges stand almost empty," says Dean C. F. Curtiss, who visited that country recently. "Canada realizes that it needs leaders in agriculture more than ever now and in the years to come, on farms, in schools and

in experiment stations, and that it can train them best in the agricultural colleges. It is bending every energy to refill its agricultural colleges and is succeeding. These are distinctly the days of science in agriculture. We cannot hope to get what we need to get from our soil and our animal industry without applying science to our work. The farmer of the future cannot meet the nation's needs unless he is thoroly trained to do so."

Many fields related to agriculture will also require men trained in agriculture. The great movement for agricultural education in the public schools cannot go on if institutions like Iowa State College do not prepare teachers for this work. Many lines of manufacturing require experts with agricultural experience and education. Big business needs such men also, wherever it touches agriculture. Hundreds annually are necessary to meet the need for men to do the work of agricultural experiment stations and research laboratories so that increasing farm problems may be solved.

SECOND, the farm has a future as well as a present, and that must be considered.

In that future the farm must yield more than it does now or the world will go half fed, because population increases and the farm area stands still. It must give larger profits or the farm business will fail, because the investment in land, buildings and live stock on every farm is many times larger than it used to be. Yet how great a task it is to meet these future needs! Soil fertility naturally decreases with increased demands upon it; more plant and animal pests and diseases must be fought than ever before; economic conditions generally are changing more rapidly now in a year than otherwise in ten years; marketing has grown from a simple exchange to a problem with ever new difficulties. To make the farm of the future produce more and do it efficiently and with profit is going to demand more skilled management than ever, better use of man, horse and machine power, more scientific knowledge about land and live stock than ever. In agriculture, the education and training that met reasonably well the needs of ten years ago will not meet the needs ten years, nor even five years hence. The world is moving swiftly and the farm must keep the pace.

The farm cannot keep the pace if it is not allowed to have young men of thoro education. It deserves them as much as business, the professions, and other industries. It may be that the home must sacrifice a little now to let its young men get ready for big things, but that sacrifice is sure to bring big returns.

THIRD, it is to be remembered that the young man has a future. In fact, he has more future than past or present; his big work lies ahead of him.

There may be a certain kind of saving in holding a young man back from college now to fill the place of hired help on the farm, in the factory or in the office, but that saving may rob that young man forever of the chance to get more education and thus fit himself for the largest usefulness. In doing that it also robs the world of what he might be and do. There is no longer any question whether education pays or not. College training is part of the foundation preparation of the great majority of men who take places of leadership.

If the money that a young man may earn now looms large, it is well to consider the facts gathered by an Ohio man, Arthur Powell, in his study of the earning power of thousands of men in all vocations. In 40 working years, the average uneducated worker earns \$18,000. In his 40 working years, the average educated man, considering those with public school training only as well as college men, earns \$40,000. That is a difference of \$22,000 in favor of education, or \$10 per day for each day an educated boy spends in school from the primary grade up.

To save a hired man's wage now and to cut down the possibility of large success and larger earning power in ten years from now is short sightedness. It is forgetting that the nation and the job and the boy, all three, have a future as well as a present.

WHETHER a boy who may be called to the army in two years, more or less, should go on with his education is a question that is a little different. In reply this may be said: The nation will always find it more difficult to secure men of education for positions of leadership in army, navy or elsewhere, than men for the ranks. That is true today and will be more true in two years. Then young men who have invested the intervening two years in getting more education will find places of special duty and leadership waiting for them. That will be especially true if they spend the two years in such an institution as Iowa State College, where they have opportunity to get thoro military training. Moreover, two years of college will stabilize the young man during his service and be valuable to him after the war.

"Reasons for getting an agricultural education were never stronger than now," says Dean C. F. Curtiss. "The nation needs well trained farmers; the farms need them; the young man himself needs the education."

"The young man can be reasonably well spared from the farm after the harvest rush is over, in time to enter college at Ames, September 10. If, in the spring, the farm demands him again, the college will arrange his work so that he may go, much as it did with the young men who had to return to the farm last spring."

Young men or parents who are interested may secure catalogs and other information by writing to The Registrar, Ames, Iowa.



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